

1007 Rec'd PCT/PTO 19 FEB 2002

Form PTO-1390 (Rev. 12-29-99)		US DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE	ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NO M 6741 HST PCT/US
TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US) CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371			U.S. APPLICATION NO. (if known use 37 CFR 1.53) 10/049767
INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/US00/22335	INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE August 14, 2000	PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED August 16, 1999	
TITLE OF INVENTION PROCESS AND COMPOSITION FOR TREATING METALS			
APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US Hirokatsu Bannai, Yasuhiko Nagashima and Takaomi Nakayama			
Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (EO/DO/US) the following items and other information			
1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This is a FIRST submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371 2. <input type="checkbox"/> This is a SECOND or SUBSEQUENT submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371. 3. <input type="checkbox"/> This express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)) at any time rather than delay examination until the expiration of the applicable time limit set in 35 U.S.C. 371(b) and PCT Articles 22 and 39 (1) 4. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A proper Demand for International Preliminary Examination was made by the 19th month from the earliest claimed priority date 5. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)) a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> is transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau) b. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> has been transmitted by the International Bureau c. <input type="checkbox"/> is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US) 6. <input type="checkbox"/> A translation of the International Application into English (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)) 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)) a. <input type="checkbox"/> are transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau) b. <input type="checkbox"/> have been transmitted by the International Bureau c. <input type="checkbox"/> have not been made, however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired d. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> have not been made and will not be made 8. <input type="checkbox"/> A translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)) 9. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4)) 10. <input type="checkbox"/> A translation of the annexes to the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(5))			
Items 11. to 16. below concern other document(s) or information included:			
11. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98 12. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included 13. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A FIRST preliminary amendment <input type="checkbox"/> A SECOND or SUBSEQUENT preliminary amendment 14. <input type="checkbox"/> A substitute specification. 15. <input type="checkbox"/> A change of power of attorney and/or address letter. 16. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other items or information:			
International Search Report and IDC			
"Express Mail" mailing label number <u>EL615775383US</u>			

Form PTO 1390 (REV 12-29-99) page 2 of 2

PATENT
Docket No. M 6741 PCT/US

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

RE: PCT/EP00/22335
International Filing Date: August 12, 2000
Priority Date Claimed: August 16, 1999
Applicant: Bannai et al.
Title: PROCESS FOR FORMING A PHOSPHATE CONVERSION
COATING ON METAL
Applicants' Reference: M 6741 PCT/US

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Box PCT
Washington, DC 20231

ATTN: DO/EO/US

Sir:

Prior to substantive examination of the above referenced application,
please enter the following Amendment.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, after the title, enter the following new paragraph:

--This application claims priority from International Application No.
PCT/US00/22335, filed 16 August 2000 and published in English, and Japanese
Application No. H11-230060, filed 16 August 1999.--

Page 28, line 1, amend to read as follows:

What is claimed is:

Enter page 30 as the Abstract of the Disclosure.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Amend claim 1 to read as follows:

1. (Amended) A process for forming a phosphate conversion coating on a
metal substrate surface, said process comprising the following
operations:

(I) contacting the metal substrate surface with an aqueous liquid surface conditioning composition that comprises water and the following components:

(I.A) dispersed solid phosphate particles that:

- (i) have a diameter no greater than 5 μm ; and
- (ii) comprise at least one substance selected from the group consisting of phosphates that contain at least one type of divalent or trivalent metal cations;

and

(I.B) as adhesion-promoting component, at least one selection from the group consisting of the following subgroups:

- (1) monosaccharides, polysaccharides, and derivatives thereof;
- (2) phosphorus containing solutes selected from the group consisting of orthophosphoric acid, condensed phosphoric acids, and organophosphonic acid compounds;
- (3) water-soluble polymers that are homopolymers or copolymers of vinyl acetate and derivatives of these homopolymers and copolymers; and
- (4) copolymers and polymers afforded by the polymerization of:
 - (a) at least one selection from:

- monomers, exclusive of vinyl acetate, that conform to general chemical formula (I):



where $\text{R}^1 = \text{H}$ or CH_3 and $\text{R}^2 = \text{H}$, C_1 to C_5 alkyl, or C_1 to C_5 hydroxyalkyl; and

- other α , β -unsaturated carboxylic acid monomers; and, optionally,

- (b) not more than 50 % by weight of monomers that are not vinyl acetate and are not within the description of part (a) immediately above but are copolymerizable with said monomers that are within the description of said part (a);

and

(II) contacting the metal substrate surface as conditioned in operation (I) as described above with a nickel-free phosphate conversion treatment bath that comprises water and the following amounts of the following components:

- (II.A) from 0.5 to 5 g/l of zinc cations;
- (II.B) from 5 to 30 g/l of phosphate ions; and
- (II.C) a component of conversion accelerator.

Enter the following new claims 5-10:

- 5. (New) The process of claim 1 wherein the divalent or trivalent metal cations are selected from the group consisting of Zn, Fe, Mn, Co, Ca, Mg and Al.
- 6. (New) The process of claim 1 wherein the aqueous liquid surface conditioning composition has a concentration of dispersed solid phosphate particles of from 0.001 to 30 g/l.
- 7. (New) The process of claim 1 wherein the aqueous liquid surface conditioning composition has a concentration of adhesion-promoting component of from 1 to 2000 ppm.
- 8. (New) The process of claim 1 wherein the aqueous liquid surface conditioning composition is additionally comprised of an alkali metal or ammonium salt selected from the group consisting of orthophosphate salts, metaphosphate salts, orthosilicate salts, metasilicate salts, carbonate salts, bicarbonate salts, nitrate salts, nitrite salts, sulfate salts, borate salts, organic acid salts and mixtures thereof.
- 9. (New) The process of claim 1 wherein the nickel-free phosphate conversion treatment bath is additionally comprised of an etchant selected from the group consisting of fluoride ions, complex fluoride ions, and mixtures thereof.
- 10. (New) The process of claim 1 wherein the metal substrate is selected from the group consisting of steel sheets, zinc-plated steel sheets, zinc alloy-plated steel sheets, magnesium alloys, and aluminum alloys.

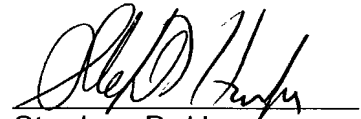
11/17/2000 10:43 AM PCT/US00/22335

**Preliminary Amendment of U.S. National Stage for International Application
PCT/US00/22335 filed August 16, 2000**

REMARKS

Claim 1 has been amended for clarification reasons only. The amendments to claim 1 are shown on the separate sheet entitled "Version Marked to Show Changes Made".

Respectfully submitted,



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Version Marked to Show Changes Made

Claim 1 has been amended as follows:

1. (Amended) A process for forming a phosphate conversion coating on a metal substrate surface, said process comprising the following operations:
 - (I) contacting the metal substrate surface with an aqueous liquid surface conditioning composition that comprises[, preferably consists essentially of, or more preferably consists of,] water and the following components:
 - (I.A) dispersed solid phosphate particles that:
 - (i) have a diameter no greater than 5 μm ; and
 - (ii) comprise at least one substance selected from the group consisting of phosphates that contain at least one type of divalent or trivalent metal cations;
 - and
 - (I.B) as adhesion-promoting component, at least one selection from the group consisting of the following subgroups:
 - (1) monosaccharides, polysaccharides, and derivatives thereof;
 - (2) phosphorus containing solutes selected from the group consisting of orthophosphoric acid, condensed phosphoric acids, and organophosphonic acid compounds;
 - (3) water-soluble polymers that are homopolymers or copolymers of vinyl acetate and derivatives of these homopolymers and copolymers; and
- (4) copolymers and polymers as afforded by the polymerization of:
 - (a) at least one selection from:
 - monomers, exclusive of vinyl acetate, that conform to general chemical formula (I):



where $\text{R}^1 = \text{H}$ or CH_3 and $\text{R}^2 = \text{H}$, C_1 to C_5 alkyl, or C_1 to C_5 hydroxyalkyl; and

- other α , β -unsaturated carboxylic acid monomers; and,

**Preliminary Amendment of U.S. National Stage for International Application
PCT/US/0022335 filed August 16, 2000**

optionally,

- (b) not more than 50 % by weight of monomers that are not vinyl acetate and are not within the description of part (a) immediately above but are copolymerizable with said monomers that are within the description of said part (a);

and

- (II) contacting the metal substrate surface as conditioned in operation (I) as described above with a nickel-free phosphate conversion treatment bath that comprises water and the following amounts of the following components:
 - (II.A) from 0.5 to 5 g/l of zinc cations;
 - (II.B) from 5 to 30 g/l of phosphate ions; and
 - (II.C) a component of conversion accelerator.

DescriptionPROCESS FOR FORMING A PHOSPHATE CONVERSION COATING ON METAL

FIELD AND BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates to processes for the phosphate conversion treatment of metals wherein said processes employ a nickel ion-free phosphate conversion treatment bath and produce a uniform, strongly paint-adherent, and highly post-painting corrosion-resistant coating on such metals as steel sheet, zinc-plated steel sheet, aluminum alloys, and magnesium alloys.

Phosphate conversion treatments are currently executed as a pre-paint treatment on automotive body components in order to enhance corrosion resistance and improve the steel sheet-to-paint adherence. In these phosphate conversion treatments, the metal is first brought into contact with a colloidal titanium surface conditioning bath and is then brought into contact with an acidic solution containing phosphate ions, zinc ions, nickel ions, and manganese ions in order to precipitate a phosphate coating on the metal.

However, in association with today's heightened concern with environmental protection, the regulatory situation with regard to nickel in wastewater has become increasingly stringent, particularly in Europe. It is certainly prudent to anticipate that regulations on nickel in wastewater might also become much more demanding in other countries in the future. These considerations make it desirable to eliminate the nickel from the conversion treatment baths used in zinc phosphate treatments.

Unfortunately, a number of negative effects are caused by removal of the nickel from many phosphate treatment baths used in the aforementioned phosphate treatment processes: The crystals in the phosphate coating undergo coarsening; the phosphate coating suffers from a loss of uniformity, the post-painting corrosion resistance declines, and the secondary (water-resistant) adherence of paint to zinc-plated material also declines.

Japanese Laid Open Patent Application (PCT) Number Hei 7-505445 (505,445/1995) teaches a nickel-free phosphate treatment process in order to solve the problems referenced above. This treatment process involves formation of a nickel-free phosphate coating by treatment with a phosphate conversion bath containing 0.2 to 2 grams of zinc ions per liter of bath (this unit of concentration being freely used hereinafter for any constituent of any liquid and being usually abbreviated as "g/l"), 0.5 to 25 milligrams of copper ions per liter, and 5 to 30 g/l phosphate ions. This process

uses copper as a substitute metal for nickel, but still suffers from several problems. Since the allowable copper level in this conversion treatment bath is so very low, management of the copper concentration in real-world lines is exceedingly difficult. Another concern is with electrolytic corrosion of the equipment accompanied by displacement copper plating on parts of the equipment.

Given this background, there is a desire for development of a phosphate conversion treatment process that does not use nickel but nevertheless affords a post-painting adherence and post-painting corrosion resistance that are the equal of those afforded by existing phosphate conversion treatments that use nickel. One major object of this invention is to provide a phosphate conversion treatment process that treats metal surfaces with a nickel-free conversion treatment bath and produces a phosphate conversion coating that evidences an excellent post-painting corrosion resistance and excellent paint adherence.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

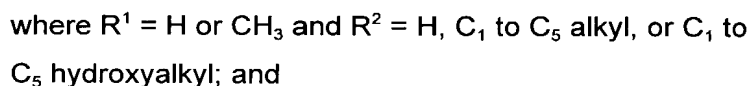
It has been found that most or all of the problems caused by the removal of nickel from previous phosphating treatments can be eliminated by using a surface conditioning composition that contains very fine, dispersed solid phosphate particles.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION AND PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

More specifically, a process according to the invention for forming a phosphate conversion on a metal substrate surface comprises, preferably consists essentially of, or more preferably consists of the following operations:

- (I) contacting the metal substrate surface with an aqueous liquid surface conditioning composition (hereinafter for brevity often called a "bath" without intending any implication that it must be contacted with the metal substrate by immersion of the metal substrate in a volume of the aqueous liquid surface conditioning composition) that comprises, preferably consists essentially of, or more preferably consists of, water and the following components:
 - (I.A) dispersed solid phosphate particles that:
 - (i) have a diameter no greater than 5 micrometres, this unit of length being hereinafter usually abbreviated as " μm "; and
 - (ii) comprise, preferably consist essentially of, or more preferably consist of, at least one substance selected from the group consisting of phosphates that contain at least one divalent or trivalent metal cation; and
 - (I.B) as adhesion-promoting component, at least one selection from the group

- (1) monosaccharides, polysaccharides, and derivatives thereof;
- (2) phosphorus containing solutes selected from the group consisting of orthophosphoric acid, condensed phosphoric acids, and organophosphonic acid compounds;
- (3) water-soluble polymers that are homopolymers or copolymers of vinyl acetate and derivatives of these homopolymers and copolymers; and
- (4) copolymers and polymers as afforded by the polymerization of:
 - (a) at least one selection from:
 - monomers, exclusive of vinyl acetate, that conform to general chemical formula (I):



-- other α,β -unsaturated carboxylic acid monomers; and, optionally,

and

(II) contacting the metal substrate surface as conditioned in operation (I) as described above with a nickel-free phosphate conversion treatment bath that comprises, preferably consists essentially of, or more preferably consists of water and the following amounts of the following components:

(II.A) from 0.5 to 5 g/l of zinc cations;

(II.B) from 5 to 30 g/l of phosphate ions; and

(II.C) a component of conversion accelerator.

In a preferred embodiment, the above-specified conversion treatment baths also contain from 0.1 to 3.0 g/l of at least one type of metal containing ions selected from the group consisting of magnesium ions, cobalt ions, manganese ions, calcium ions, tungstate ions, and strontium ions.

The features of this invention are explained in greater detail hereinbelow.

Whenever a group of materials from which a constituent can be selected is specified, whether by a specific list, use of generic chemical terms, and/or conformance to a general chemical formula, any two or more of the group may be selected instead of a single member with equal preference, unless explicitly stated otherwise.

While no particular limitations apply to the metal on which the inventive phosphate treatment process may be executed, this metal is preferably steel sheet, zinc-plated steel sheet, zinc alloy-plated steel sheet, magnesium alloy, or aluminum alloy.

It is preferred in the practice of the invention that the metal substrate surface be clean prior to the phosphate conversion treatment. Metal whose surface is already clean can be brought without further treatment into contact with the surface conditioning bath. However, in the case of treatment of metal whose surface is contaminated with adherent materials such as iron particles, dust, and oil, the contaminants adhering on the surface should be removed by cleaning, for example, by cleaning with a water-based alkaline degreaser or an emulsion degreaser or by solvent degreasing. When a water-based cleaner is used, the cleaning bath remaining on the metal surface is preferably removed by the provision of, for example, a water rinse step after the cleaning step.

At least some of the particles of divalent and/or trivalent metal phosphate present in a surface conditioning bath in a process according to the invention must have a particle size or diameter no greater than 5 μm . (Insolubles of larger size are undesirable because — depending on the particular circumstances — they often cannot be stably maintained in the aqueous bath.) These phosphate particles are believed to function as nuclei during phosphate crystal deposition and also to promote the deposition reaction itself, by undergoing partial dissolution in the phosphate conversion treatment bath and inducing a substantial acceleration of the initial phosphate crystal deposition reactions by supplying one or more main components of the phosphate crystals to the region immediately adjacent to the metal surface.

The divalent and trivalent metals used here are not critical, but preferably comprise at least one selection from Zn, Fe, Mn, Co, Ca, Mg, and Al. The divalent and/or trivalent metal phosphate particles are preferably present at a concentration from 0.001 to 30 g/l. Acceleration of the initial phosphate crystal deposition reactions does not normally occur at a divalent and/or trivalent metal phosphate particle concentration below 0.001 g/l due to the small amount of divalent and/or trivalent metal phosphate

particles that become adsorbed on the metal surface at such low concentrations. Concentrations below 0.001 g/l also prevent acceleration of the crystal deposition reactions due to the small number of divalent and/or trivalent metal phosphate particles available to act as crystal nuclei. Divalent and/or trivalent metal phosphate particle concentrations in excess of 30 g/l cannot be expected to provide additional promotion of the phosphate conversion reactions and hence will be uneconomical.

The adhesion-promoting component that must be present in the inventive surface conditioning bath functions to improve the dispersion stability of the divalent and/or trivalent metal phosphate particles and to accelerate adsorption of the divalent and/or trivalent metal phosphate particles onto the metal surface. More specifically, the adhesion promoting component is believed to adsorb on the surface of the divalent and/or trivalent metal phosphate particles and, through a steric hindrance activity and repulsive forces arising from its electrical charge, to prevent collisions among the divalent and/or trivalent metal phosphate particles in the surface conditioning bath and thereby inhibit their aggregation and sedimentation. In addition, due to its structure, the adhesion-promoting component itself is believed to have an ability to adsorb to metal surfaces and thereby to accelerate adsorption to metal surfaces by the divalent and/or trivalent metal phosphate particles, so that the surface conditioning activity manifests upon contact between the metal workpiece and surface conditioning bath.

The adhesion-promoting component concentration is preferably from 1 to 2,000 parts by weight of the adhesion promoting component per 1000 parts by weight of the total conditioning composition, this unit of concentration being hereinafter usually abbreviated as "ppm". At concentrations below 1 ppm a surface conditioning activity can not usually be produced just by contact between the metal workpiece and the surface conditioning bath. Not only can no additional benefit be expected at concentrations in excess of 2,000 ppm, but such concentrations can impair the phosphate conversion coating formed, perhaps as a result of excessive adsorption of the adhesion promoting component on the metal substrate surface.

A saccharide type of adhesion-promoting component for the surface conditioning operation in a process according to the invention may be exemplified by fructose, tagatose, psicose, sorbose, erythrose, threose, ribose, arabinose, xylose, lyxose, allose, altrose, glucose, mannose, gulose, idose, galactose, talose, and the sodium and ammonium salts of all of these saccharides.

A phosphorus containing acid type of adhesion-promoting component in the sur-

face conditioning process is exemplified by orthophosphoric acid, polyphosphoric acids, and organophosphonic acid compounds, or more individually by pyrophosphoric acid, triphosphoric acid, trimetaphosphoric acid, tetrametaphosphoric acid, hexametaphosphoric acid, aminotrimethylenephosphonic acid, 1-hydroxyethylidene-1,1-diphosphonic acid, ethylenediaminetetramethylenephosphonic acid, diethylenetriamine-pentamethylenephosphonic acid, and the sodium and ammonium salts of all of the preceding acids. Sodium salts are preferred for the organophosphonic acids if they are to be used in salt form.

Polymeric adhesion promoting components derived from polyvinylacetate in a surface conditioning operation in a process according to the invention are exemplified by polyvinyl alcohols afforded by the hydrolysis of vinyl acetate polymers, cyanoethylated polyvinyl alcohols afforded by the cyanoethylation of polyvinyl alcohol with acrylonitrile, formalated polyvinyl alcohols afforded by the acetalation of polyvinyl alcohol with formaldehyde, urethanized polyvinyl alcohols afforded by the urethanation of polyvinyl alcohol with urea, and water-soluble polymers afforded by the introduction of carboxyl moieties, sulfonic moieties, or amide moieties into polyvinyl alcohol. Suitable vinyl acetate-copolymerizable monomers are exemplified by acrylic acid, crotonic acid, and maleic anhydride. The effects associated with the present invention will be fully manifested as long as the vinyl acetate polymer or derivative thereof or the copolymer of vinyl acetate and vinyl acetate-copolymerizable monomer is soluble in water. Within this limitation, these effects are independent of the degree of polymerization and the degree of functional group introduction of the subject polymers.

Suitable monomers for other polymeric adhesion promoting components for the surface conditioning operation are exemplified by: methyl acrylate, ethyl acrylate, propyl acrylate, butyl acrylate, pentyl acrylate, hydroxymethyl acrylate, hydroxyethyl acrylate, hydroxypropyl acrylate, hydroxybutyl acrylate, hydroxypentyl acrylate, hydroxymethyl methacrylate, hydroxyethyl methacrylate, hydroxypropyl methacrylate, hydroxybutyl methacrylate, and hydroxypentyl methacrylate as examples of polymers according to formula (I); acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, and maleic acid as unsaturated acids; and styrene, vinyl chloride, and vinylsulfonic acid as optional comonomers.

A surface conditioning bath used by the inventive phosphate treatment processes can also optionally contain an alkali metal salt or ammonium salt or a mixture thereof, selected from the group consisting of orthophosphate salts, metaphosphate salts, orthosilicate salts, metasilicate salts, carbonate salts, bicarbonate salts, nitrate

salts, nitrite salts, sulfate salts, borate salts, organic acid salts, and combinations of two or more selections from the aforesaid alkali metal and ammonium salts. The concentration of this component is not critical, but when used is preferably from 0.5 to 20 g/l. The surface conditioning bath may also contain a surfactant to promote uniform wetting of the surface being treated.

The phosphate conversion treatment process of this invention will now be considered in greater detail. A zinc ions concentration below 0.5 g/l, because it can prevent the formation of a coating of acceptable weight and can result in a diminished coverage ratio by the deposited phosphate crystals, can produce an inadequate post-painting corrosion resistance. A zinc ions concentration in excess of 5.0 g/l can cause a coarsening of the coating crystals, resulting in particular in a decline in the post-painting adherence. The use of a phosphate ions concentration below 5.0 g/l strongly impairs the production of a normal conversion coating. Concentrations in excess of 30.0 g/l are uneconomical since they provide no additional effect. Phosphate ions can be supplied by the addition of phosphoric acid or its aqueous solution to the phosphate conversion treatment bath or by the dissolution of, for example, sodium, magnesium, or zinc phosphate in the phosphate conversion treatment bath.

The conversion treatment bath also contains a component known as a "conversion accelerator" or simply "accelerator". The accelerator acts to restrain gaseous hydrogen production during etching, an action sometimes called "depolarizing" the metal substrate surface. Otherwise, however, no particular limitations apply to the accelerator, and any material or combination of materials recognized as a conversion accelerator in prior art may be used.

The phosphate conversion treatment bath of this invention can also contain from 0.1 to 3.0 g/l of at least one type of metal containing ions selected from the group consisting of magnesium cations, cobalt cations, manganese cations, calcium cations, tungstate anions, and strontium cations. The presence of this component in the phosphate conversion treatment bath, through its incorporation into the phosphate coating and through its precipitation in a form separate from the phosphate, provides additional performance enhancements in the post-painting corrosion resistance and post-painting adherence, respectively. The use of a concentration below 0.1 g/l usually does not effect any improvement in painting performance. A concentration above 3.0 g/l is economically wasteful, since no additional improvements in painting performance usually results; a high concentration can actually hinder deposition of the zinc phosphate that

is the main component of an effectively protective conversion coating produced according to this invention. The source of one of the types of metal cations can be, for example, an oxide, hydroxide, carbonate, sulfate, nitrate, or phosphate of the particular metal. The source of tungstate can be, for example, the sodium or potassium salt.

An etchant may be added to the phosphate conversion treatment bath in order to induce a uniform etch of the surface of the metal workpiece. Usable as this etchant are, for example, fluoride ions and complex fluoride ions such as fluorosilicate ions. The fluorine compound used here can be, for example, hydrofluoric acid, fluorosilicic acid, or a water soluble metal salt (e.g., sodium salt, potassium salt) of the preceding.

The phosphate conversion treatment can be carried out by immersion or spraying or some combination thereof. Treatment for about 1 to 5 minutes can form a conversion coating satisfactorily robust for practical applications. The temperature of the phosphate conversion treatment bath is preferably from 30 to 60 °C.

The phosphate conversion treatment is preferably followed by at least one water rinse, and deionized water is preferably used in the final water rinse.

Working and comparative examples of actual treatments are provided below in order to demonstrate the advantageous effects of this invention in specific terms. The working examples that follow are simply examples of the application of the invention and in no way limit the applications of the invention or materials usable in the application of the invention.

Materials tested

The following metal substrates were treated in the working and comparative examples: electrogalvanized steel sheet ("EG"), sheet thickness = 0.8 millimeters (hereinafter usually abbreviated as "mm"), plating add-on = 20 grams of plated zinc per square meter of sheet surface, this unit of coating weight being hereinafter freely used for any coating on any surface and being hereinafter usually abbreviated as "g/m²"; galvanized hot-dip galvanized steel sheet ("GA"), sheet thickness = 0.8 mm, coating add-on = 45 g/m²; and cold-rolled steel sheet ("CRS"), sheet thickness = 0.8 mm, type SPCC-SD.

Treatment operations sequence (common to the working and comparative examples; as noted in the description of the testing below, not all of the specimens tested were subjected to the operations numbered 8 or higher)

- (1) Degreasing with diluted FINECLEANER® L4460 alkaline degreaser concentrate, a product of Nihon Parkerizing Co., Ltd., the working degreaser containing 20

- ## Test and other evaluation methods

+	:	the coating was uniform;
×	:	the coating exhibited a significant lack of uniformity with visible voids.

++	:	complete absence of peeling;
+	:	some peeling observed at the edges of the grid cut;
×	:	substantial peeling.

9

were as follows. A cross cut was scribed with an acrylic cutter in the sheet after operation (8) as described above, and the specimen thus prepared was immersed for 240 hours in a 5 % by weight solution of sodium chloride in water that was maintained at 55 °C and was bubbled with air. The specimen was allowed to stand for 1 hour after withdrawal from the saltwater bath, after which time the cross cut was peeled with tape and the width of peeling from the cut was evaluated. The peeling behavior was evaluated using the following three-level scale:

For the CRS:

- + + : maximum peel width (both sides) less than 4 mm;
- + : maximum peel width (both sides) at least 4 mm but less than 6 mm;
- × : maximum peel width (both sides) at least 6 mm.

For the EG and GA:

- + + : maximum peel width (one side) less than 3 mm;
- + : maximum peel width (one side) at least 3 mm but less than 5 mm;
- × : maximum peel width (one side) at least 5 mm.

The test conditions and evaluation scale for salt spray testing were as follows:

A cross cut was scribed with an acrylic cutter in the sheet after operation (8) as described above, and the specimen thus prepared was tested using a salt spray tester (5 % by weight solution of sodium chloride in water) maintained at 35 °C. After the stipulated time (based on Japanese Industrial Standard Z-2371), the specimen was rinsed with water and the status of corrosion at the cross cut was evaluated using the following three-level scale:

For the CRS (salt spray test time = 960 hours):

- + + : maximum rust width (both sides) less than 4 mm;
- + : maximum rust width (both sides) at least 4 mm but less than 5 mm;
- × : maximum rust width (both sides) at least 5 mm.

For the EG and GA (salt spray test time = 480 hours):

- + + : maximum rust width (one side) less than 4 mm;
- + : maximum rust width (one side) at least 4 mm but less than 5 mm;
- × : maximum rust width (one side) at least 5 mm.

Details of the surface conditioning processes and phosphate treatment processes for the Examples and Comparative Examples and the corresponding test results are reported in the following tables, in which the following abbreviations are used:

	Sur- factant Constit- uents:	Abbreviation	none	none	none	none	none
		Concentration, g/l	none	none	none	none	none
	Treatment Temperature, °C		20	20	20	20	20
	Treatment Time, Seconds		30	30	30	30	30
Phos- phate Con- version Treat- ment Com- posi- tion Con- stitu- ents and Process Condi- tions:	Grams per Liter of:	PO₄³⁻	10	15	20	18	16
		Zn²⁺	0.8	1.3	2.2	1.5	1.4
		Mg²⁺	2.0	none	none	none	2.5
		Co²⁺	none	1.0	none	none	none
		Mn²⁺	0.5	none	1.0	none	none
		Ca²⁺	none	none	none	1.5	none
		Sr²⁺	none	none	none	none	0.9
		WO₄⁻²	none	none	0.3	none	none
		NO₃⁻	8.3	7.6	9.0	8.0	7.3
		F⁻	0.1	none	0.1	none	0.1
		NO₂⁻	0.01	none	0.01	none	0.01
		NH₄OH	none	1.5	none	3.0	none
	Treatment Temperature, °C		40	45	50	35	43
	Treatment Time, Seconds		120	120	120	120	120

Table 2: EXAMPLES 6 TO 10

			Example Number:				
			6	7	8	9	10
Surface Conditioning Treatment Composition Constituents and Process Conditions:	PREPALENE®-ZN, g/l		none	none	none	none	none
	Phosphate Particles:	Abbreviation	Zn ₂ FeP ₂	Zn ₃ P ₂	Zn ₃ P ₂	Zn ₂ CaP ₂	Zn ₂ CaP ₂
		Particle size, μm	0.5	0.6	1.2	0.4	0.4
		Concentration, g/l	1	1	1	10	5
	Saccharide-Based Constituents:	Monosaccharide Unit	glucose xylose galactose	glucose	glucose	glucose	fructose
		Substituent(s)	none	CH ₂ COOH	CH ₂ COOH CH ₃	CH ₂ COOH	none
		Deg. of Substitution	0	≥ 2	1.9	1.0	0
		Deg. of Polym.	≤ 500	≤ 200	$\leq 1,000$	$\leq 2,000$	≤ 500
	Salt constituent(s):	Concentration, ppm	100	100	1	10	5
		Chemical Formula	none	none	Na ₂ O•SiO ₂ •5H ₂ O	Na ₂ CO ₃	Na ₃ PO ₄ •12H ₂ O
	Surfactant Constituents:	Concentration, g/l	none	none	5	1	10
		Abbreviation	none	none	none	none	EO11NPE
		Concentration, g/l	none	none	none	none	2.0
	Treatment Temperature, °C		20	20	20	20	40
	Treatment Time, Seconds		30	30	30	30	120
Phosphate Conversion Treatment Composition Constituents and Process Conditions:	Grams per Liter of:	PO ₄ ³⁻	11	15	22	18	16
		Zn ²⁺	0.9	1.3	2.0	1.5	1.4
		Mg ²⁺	2.0	none	none	none	2.5
		Co ²⁺	none	none	none	none	none
		Mn ²⁺	0.6	none	1.0	none	none
		Ca ²⁺	none	none	none	1.0	none
		Sr ²⁺	none	none	none	none	0.9
		WO ₄ ²⁻	none	none	0.3	none	none
		NO ₃ ⁻	8.9	7.6	9.0	8.0	7.3
		F ⁻	0.1	none	0.1	none	0.1
		NO ₂ ⁻	0.01	none	0.01	none	none
		NH ₄ OH	none	1.5	none	3.0	3.5
	Treatment Temperature, °C		38	43	49	55	59
	Treatment Time, Seconds		120	120	120	120	120

Table 3: COMPARATIVE EXAMPLES 1 TO 5

			Comparative Example Number:				
			1	2	3	4	5
Surface Conditioning Treatment Composition Constituents and Process Conditions:	PREPALENE®-ZN, g/l		none	none	none	none	none
	Phosphate Particles:	Abbreviation	Zn ₂ FeP ₂	Zn ₃ P ₂	Zn ₃ P ₂	Zn ₃ P ₂	Zn ₃ P ₂
		Particle size, μm	0.5	0.6	1.2	0.5	0.5
		Concentration, g/l	1	1	1	1	1
	Saccharide-Based Constituents:	Monosaccharide Unit	glucose xylose galactose	glucose	glucose	glucose	fructose
		Substituent(s)	none	CH ₂ COOH	CH ₂ COOH CH ₃	none	none
		Deg. of Substitution	0	≥ 2	1.9	none	none
		Deg. of Polym.	≤ 500	≤ 200	$\leq 1,000$	1	≤ 100
	Salt constituent(s):	Concentration, ppm	100	100	1	2000	2000
		Chemical Formula	none	none	Na ₂ O•SiO ₂ •5H ₂ O	MgSO ₄ •7H ₂ O	none
	Surfactant Constituents:	Concentration, g/l	none	none	5	0.5	none
		Abbreviation	none	none	none	none	none
		Concentration, g/l	none	none	none	none	none
	Treatment Temperature, °C		20	20	20	20	20
	Treatment Time, Seconds		30	30	30	30	30
Phosphate Conversion Treatment Composition Constituents and Process Conditions:	Grams per Liter of:	PO ₄ ³⁻	11	15	1.0	18	16
		Zn ²⁺	0.1	7.0	2.0	1.5	1.4
		Mg ²⁺	2.0	none	none	none	2.5
		Co ²⁺	none	none	none	none	none
		Mn ²⁺	0.6	none	1.0	1.0	none
		Ca ²⁺	none	none	none	none	none
		Sr ²⁺	none	none	none	3.0	0.9
		WO ₄ ²⁻	none	none	0.3	none	none
		NO ₃ ⁻	8.9	7.6	9.0	8.0	7.3
		F ⁻	0.1	none	0.1	none	0.1
		NO ₂ ⁻	0.01	none	0.01	none	none
		NH ₄ OH	none	1.5	none	3.0	3.5
	Treatment Temperature, °C		38	43	49	55	20
	Treatment Time, Seconds		120	120	120	120	120

Table 4: COMPARATIVE EXAMPLES 6 TO 10

			Comparative Example Number:				
			6	7	8	9	10
Surface Conditioning Treatment Composition Constituents and Process Conditions:	PREPALENE®-ZN, g/l		1	none	none	none	none
	Phosphate Particles:	Abbreviation	none	Zn3P2	Zn3P2	Zn2CaP2	Zn2FeP2
		Particle size, μm	none	0.6	6.5	0.4	0.5
		Concentration, g/l	none	1	1	10	0.00001
	Saccharide-Based Constituents:	Monosaccharide Unit	none	none	glucose	glucose	glucose
		Substituent(s)	none	none	CH ₂ COOH CH ₃	CH ₂ COOH	CH ₂ COOH
		Deg. of Substitution	none	none	1.9	1.0	0.7
		Deg. of Polym.	none	none	≤ 1,000	≤ 2,000	≤ 100
	Salt constituent(s):	Concentration, ppm	none	none	1	5,000	10
		Chemical Formula	none	none	Na ₂ O•SiO ₂ •5H ₂ O	Na ₂ CO ₃	NaNO ₂
	Surfactant Constituents:	Concentration, g/l	none	none	5	1	0.5
		Abbreviation	none	none	none	none	none
		Concentration, g/l	none	none	none	none	none
		Treatment Temperature, °C	20	20	20	20	20
		Treatment Time, Seconds	30	30	30	30	30
Phosphate Conversion Treatment Composition Constituents and Process Conditions:	Grams per Liter of:	PO ₄ ³⁻	11	15	22	18	16
		Zn ²⁺	0.9	1.3	2.0	1.5	1.4
		Mg ²⁺	2.0	none	none	none	2.5
		Co ²⁺	none	none	none	none	none
		Mn ²⁺	0.6	none	1.0	none	none
		Ca ²⁺	none	none	none	1.0	none
		Sr ²⁺	none	none	none	none	0.9
		WO ₄ ²⁻	none	none	0.3	none	none
		NO ₃ ⁻	8.9	7.6	9.0	8.0	7.3
		F ⁻	0.1	none	0.1	none	0.1
		NO ₂ ⁻	0.01	none	0.01	none	none
		NH ₄ OH	none	1.5	none	3.0	3.5
		Treatment Temperature, °C	40	45	50	39	43
		Treatment Time, Seconds	120	120	120	120	120

Table 5: APPEARANCE OF THE CONVERSION COATING AND RESULTS OF PAINTING PERFORMANCE TESTING FOR EXAMPLES 1 THROUGH 10

TEST OR OTHER RATING	SUB-STRATE TESTED	EXAMPLE NUMBER									
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Coating Appearance	CRS	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
	EG	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
	GA	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Secondary (Water-Resistant) Adherence	CRS	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++
	EG	++	++	+	++	++	++	++	+	++	++
	GA	++	++	+	++	++	++	++	+	++	++
Resistance to Hot Salt Water	CRS	++	++	++	++	+	++	+	++	++	+
	EG	++	++	++	++	++	++	+	++	++	++
	GA	++	++	++	++	++	++	+	++	++	++
Resistance to Salt Spray	CRS	+	++	++	+	+	+	+	+	++	+
	EG	++	+	++	+	++	++	+	+	++	++
	GA	++	+	++	+	++	++	+	+	++	++

Table 6: APPEARANCE OF THE CONVERSION COATING AND RESULTS OF PAINTING PERFORMANCE TESTING FOR COMPARISON EXAMPLES 1 THROUGH 10

TEST OR OTHER RATING	SUB-STRATE TESTED	COMPARISON EXAMPLE NUMBER									
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Coating Appearance	CRS	x	+	x	x	x	+	x	x	x	x
	EG	x	+	x	x	x	+	x	x	x	+
	GA	x	+	x	x	x	+	x	x	x	+
Secondary (Water-Resistant) Adherence	CRS	++	+	++	++	++	+	++	++	++	+
	EG	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
	GA	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Resistance to Hot Salt Water	CRS	x	++	x	x	x	++	x	x	x	x
	EG	x	+	x	x	x	+	x	x	x	+
	GA	x	+	x	x	x	+	x	x	x	+
Resistance to Salt Spray	CRS	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
	EG	x	+	x	x	x	+	x	x	x	x
	GA	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

Table 7: EXAMPLES 11 TO 15

			Example Number:				
			11	12	13	14	15
Surface Conditioning Treatment Composition Constituents and Process Conditions:	PREPALENE®-ZN, g/l		none	none	none	none	none
	Phosphate Particles:	Abbreviation	Zn ₂ FeP ₂	Zn ₃ P ₂	Zn ₃ P ₂	Zn ₂ CaP ₂	Zn ₂ FeP ₂
		Particle size, μm	0.5	0.5	1.7	0.6	0.5
		Concentration, g/l	5	1	1	5	10
	Phosphorus Containing Solute:	Substance	tripolyphosphoric acid	hexameta-phosphoric acid	ATMPA	1-HEDPA	EDATMPA
		Concentration, ppm	1	100	500	50	1,000
	Salt constituent(s):	Chemical Formula	MgSO ₄ •7H ₂ O	Na ₂ O•SiO ₂ •5H ₂ O	none	Na ₂ CO ₃	Na ₃ PO ₄ •12H ₂ O
		Concentration, g/l	0.5	1	none	5	10
	Surfactant Constituents:	Abbreviation	none	none	none	none	EO11NPE
		Concentration, g/l	none	none	none	none	2.0
	Treatment Temperature, °C		20	20	20	20	40
	Treatment Time, Seconds		30	30	30	30	120
Phosphate Conversion Treatment Composition Constituents and Process Conditions:	Grams per Liter of:	PO ₄ ³⁻	10	15	20	18	16
		Zn ²⁺	0.8	1.3	2.2	1.5	1.4
		Mg ²⁺	2.0	none	none	none	2.5
		Co ²⁺	none	1.0	none	none	none
		Mn ²⁺	0.5	none	1.0	none	none
		Ca ²⁺	none	none	none	1.5	none
		Sr ²⁺	none	none	none	none	0.9
		WO ₄ ²⁻	none	none	0.3	none	none
		NO ₃ ⁻	8.3	7.6	9.0	8.0	7.3
		F ⁻	0.1	none	0.1	none	0.1
		NO ₂ ⁻	0.01	none	0.01	none	0.01
		NH ₄ OH	none	1.5	none	3.0	none
	Treatment Temperature, °C		40	45	50	39	43
	Treatment Time, Seconds		120	120	120	120	120

Table 8: COMPARATIVE EXAMPLES 11 TO 15

			Comparative Example Number:					
			11	12	13	14	15	
Surface Conditioning Treatment Composition Constituents and Process Conditions:	PREPALENE®-ZN, g/l		none	none	none	none	none	
	Phosphate Particles:	Abbreviation	Zn2FeP2	Zn3P2	Zn3P2	Zn2CaP2	Zn2FeP2	
		Particle size, µm	0.5	0.5	1.7	0.6	0.5	
		Concentration, g/l	5	1	1	5	10	
	Phosphorus Containing Solute:	Substance	tripoly-phosphoric acid	hexameta-phosphoric acid	ATMPA	2-HEDPA	EDATMPA	
		Concentration, ppm	1	100	500	50	1,000	
	Salt constituent(s):	Chemical Formula	MgSO4 • 7H2O	NaOH	none	Na2CO3	Na3PO4 • 12H2O	
		Concentration, g/l	0.5	1	none	5	10	
	Surfactant Constituents:	Abbreviation	none	none	none	none	EO11NPE	
		Concentration, g/l	none	none	none	none	2.0	
	Treatment Temperature, °C			20	20	20	20	40
Treatment Time, Seconds			30	30	30	30	120	
Phosphate Conversion Treatment Composition Constituents and Process Conditions:	Grams per Liter of:	PO4 ³⁻	11	15	1.0	18	16	
		Zn ²⁺	0.1	7.0	2.0	1.5	1.4	
		Mg ²⁺	2.0	none	none	none	2.5	
		Co ²⁺	none	none	none	none	none	
		Mn ²⁺	0.6	none	1.0	1.0	none	
		Ca ²⁺	none	none	none	none	none	
		Sr ²⁺	none	none	none	3.0	0.9	
		WO4 ⁻²	none	none	0.3	none	none	
		NO3 ⁻	8.9	7.6	9.0	8.0	7.3	
		F ⁻	0.1	none	0.1	none	0.1	
		NO2 ⁻	0.01	none	0.01	none	none	
		NH4OH	none	1.5	none	3.0	3.5	
	Treatment Temperature, °C			40	45	50	39	20
	Treatment Time, Seconds			120	120	120	120	120

Table 9: COMPARATIVE EXAMPLES 16 TO 20

			Comparative Example Number:				
			16	17	18	19	20
Surface Conditioning Treatment Composition Constituents and Process Conditions:	PREPALENE®-ZN, g/l		1	none	none	none	none
	Phosphate Particles	Abbreviation	none	Zn3P2	Zn3P2	Zn2CaP2	Zn2FeP2
		Particle size, μm	none	0.5	6.5	0.6	0.00001
		Concentration, g/l	none	1	1	5	10
	Phosphorus Containing Solute	Substance	none	none	ATMPA	hexametaphosphoric acid	EDATMPA
		Concentration, ppm	none	none	500	3,000	1,000
	Salt constituent(s)	Chemical Formula	$\text{MgSO}_4 \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$	none	none	Na_2CO_3	$\text{Na}_2\text{O} \cdot \text{SiO}_2 \cdot 5\text{H}_2\text{O}$
		Concentration, g/l	0.5	none	none	5	1
	Surfactant Constituents	Abbreviation	none	none	none	none	EO11NPE
		Concentration, g/l	none	none	none	none	2.0
	Treatment Temperature, $^{\circ}\text{C}$		20	20	20	20	40
	Treatment Time, Seconds		30	30	30	30	120
Phosphate Conversion Treatment Composition Constituents and Process Conditions:	Grams per Liter of:	PO_4^{3-}	11	15	22	18	16
		Zn^{2+}	0.9	1.3	2.0	1.5	1.4
		Mg^{2+}	2.0	none	none	none	2.5
		Co^{2+}	none	none	none	none	none
		Mn^{2+}	0.6	none	1.0	none	none
		Ca^{2+}	none	none	none	1.0	none
		Sr^{2+}	none	none	none	none	0.9
		WO_4^{2-}	none	none	0.3	none	none
		NO_3^-	8.9	7.6	9.0	8.0	7.3
		F^-	0.1	none	0.1	none	0.1
		NO_2^-	0.01	none	0.01	none	none
		NH_4OH	none	1.5	none	3.0	3.5
	Treatment Temperature, $^{\circ}\text{C}$		40	45	50	39	43
	Treatment Time, Seconds		120	120	120	120	120

Table 10: APPEARANCE OF THE CONVERSION COATING AND RESULTS OF PAINTING PERFORMANCE TESTING FOR EXAMPLES 11 THROUGH 15

TEST OR OTHER RATING	SUBSTRATE TESTED	EXAMPLE NUMBER				
		11	12	13	14	15
Coating Appearance	CRS	+	+	+	+	+
	EG	+	+	+	+	+
	GA	+	+	+	+	+
Secondary (Water-Resistant) Adherence	CRS	++	++	++	++	++
	EG	++	++	+	++	++
	GA	++	++	+	++	++
Resistance to Hot Salt Water	CRS	++	++	++	++	+
	EG	++	++	++	++	++
	GA	++	++	++	++	++
Resistance to Salt Spray	CRS	+	++	++	+	+
	EG	++	+	++	+	++
	GA	++	+	++	+	++

Table 11: APPEARANCE OF THE CONVERSION COATING AND RESULTS OF PAINTING PERFORMANCE TESTING FOR COMPARISON EXAMPLES 11 THROUGH 20

TEST OR OTHER RATING	SUBSTRATE TESTED	COMPARISON EXAMPLE NUMBER									
		11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Coating Appearance	CRS	x	+	x	x	x	+	x	x	x	x
	EG	x	+	x	x	x	+	x	x	x	+
	GA	x	+	x	x	x	+	x	x	x	+
Secondary (Water-Resistant) Adherence	CRS	++	+	++	++	++	+	++	++	++	+
	EG	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
	GA	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Resistance to Hot Salt Water	CRS	x	++	x	x	x	++	x	x	x	x
	EG	x	+	x	x	x	+	x	x	x	+
	GA	x	+	x	x	x	+	x	x	x	+
Resistance to Salt Spray	CRS	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
	EG	x	+	x	x	x	+	x	x	x	x
	GA	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

Table 12: EXAMPLES 16 TO 20

			Example Number:				
			16	17	18	19	20
Surface Conditioning Treatment Composition Constituents and Process Conditions:	PREPALENE®-ZN, g/l		none	none	none	none	none
	Phosphate Particles	Abbreviation	Zn2FeP2	Zn3P2	Zn3P2	Zn2CaP2	Zn2FeP2
		Particle size, µm	0.5	1.5	0.5	1.6	0.3
		Concentration, g/l	5	8	1	5	10
	Water Soluble VA Polymer or Derivative	Substance Name	polyvinyl alcohol	carboxyl-modified PVAIc	sulfonic acid-modified PVAIc	Copolymer with VA	Copolymer with VA
		Comonomer with VA	none	none	none	maleic acid	crotonic acid
		Comonomer % by Weight	none	none	none	80	70
		Concentration, ppm	1	500	2,000	1,000	10
	Salt constituent(s)	Chemical Formula	MgSO4 • 7H2O	Na2O • SiO2 • 5H2O	none	Na2CO3	Na3PO4 • 12H2O
		Concentration, g/l	0.5	1	none	5	10
	Surfactant Constituents	Abbreviation	none	none	none	none	EO11NPE
		Concentration, g/l	none	none	none	none	2.0
Phosphate Conversion Treatment Composition Constituents and Process Conditions:	Treatment Temperature, °C		20	20	20	20	40
	Treatment Time, Seconds		30	30	30	30	120
	Grams per Liter of:	PO4 ³⁻	10	15	20	18	16
		Zn ²⁺	0.8	1.3	2.2	1.5	1.4
		Mg ²⁺	2.0	none	none	none	2.5
		Co ²⁺	none	1.0	none	none	none
		Mn ²⁺	0.5	none	1.0	none	none
		Ca ²⁺	none	none	none	1.5	none
		Sr ²⁺	none	none	none	none	0.9
		WO4 ²⁻	none	none	0.3	none	none
		NO3 ⁻	8.3	7.6	9.0	8.0	7.3
		F ⁻	0.1	none	0.1	none	0.1
		NO2 ⁻	0.01	none	0.01	none	0.01
		NH4OH	none	1.5	none	3.0	none
	Treatment Temperature, °C		40	45	50	39	43
	Treatment Time, Seconds		120	120	120	120	120

Table 13: COMPARATIVE EXAMPLES 21 TO 25

			Comparative Example Number:				
			21	22	23	24	25
Surface Conditioning Treatment Composition Constituents and Process Conditions:	PREPALENE®-ZN, g/l		none	none	none	none	none
	Phosphate Particles:	Abbreviation	Zn ₂ FeP ₂	Zn ₃ P ₂	Zn ₃ P ₂	Zn ₂ CaP ₂	Zn ₃ P ₂
		Particle size, μm	0.5	0.5	0.5	1.6	0.5
		Concentration, g/l	5	1	1	5	1
	Water Soluble VA Polymer or Derivative:	Substance Name	polyvinyl-alcohol	carboxyl-modified PVAIc	sulfonic acid-modified PVAIc	Copolymer with VA	Copolymer with VA
		Comonomer with VA	none	none	none	maleic acid	crotonic acid
		Comonomer % by Weight	none	none	none	80	70
		Concentration, ppm	1	500	2,000	1,000	10
	Salt constituent(s):	Chemical Formula	MgSO ₄ •7H ₂ O	Na ₂ O•SiO ₂ •5H ₂ O	none	Na ₂ CO ₃	Na ₃ PO ₄ •12H ₂ O
		Concentration, g/l	0.5	1	none	5	10
	Surfactant Constituents:	Abbreviation	none	none	none	none	EO11NPE
		Concentration, g/l	none	none	none	none	2.0
	Treatment Temperature, °C		20	20	20	20	40
	Treatment Time, Seconds		30	30	30	30	120
Phosphate Conversion Treatment Composition Constituents and Process Conditions:	Grams per Liter of:	PO ₄ ³⁻	11	15	1.0	18	16
		Zn ²⁺	0.1	7.0	2.0	1.5	1.4
		Mg ²⁺	2.0	none	none	none	2.5
		Co ²⁺	none	none	none	none	none
		Mn ²⁺	0.6	none	1.0	1.0	none
		Ca ²⁺	none	none	none	none	none
		Sr ²⁺	none	none	none	3.0	0.9
		WO ₄ ²⁻	none	none	0.3	none	none
		NO ₃ ⁻	8.9	7.6	9.0	8.0	7.3
		F ⁻	0.1	none	0.1	none	0.1
		NO ₂ ⁻	0.01	none	0.01	none	none
		NH ₄ OH	none	1.5	none	3.0	3.5
	Treatment Temperature, °C		40	45	50	39	20
	Treatment Time, Seconds		120	120	120	120	120

Table 14: COMPARATIVE EXAMPLES 26 TO 30

			Comparative Example Number:				
			26	27	28	29	30
Surface Conditioning Treatment Composition Constituents and Process Conditions:	PREPALENE®-ZN, g/l		1	none	none	none	none
	Phosphate Particles:	Abbreviation	none	Zn2FeP2	Zn3P2	Zn2CaP2	Zn2FeP2
		Particle size, µm	none	1.7	6.5	1.6	0.3
		Concentration, g/l	none	7	1	5	0.00001
	Water Soluble VA Polymer or Derivative :	Substance Name	polyvinyl alcohol	none	sulfonic acid-modified PVAIc	Copolymer with VA	Copolymer with VA
		Comonomer with VA	none	none	none	maleic acid	crotonic acid
		Comonomer % by Weight	none	none	none	80	70
		Concentration, ppm	1	none	2,000	3,000	10
	Salt constituent(s):	Chemical Formula	none	Na2O•SiO2 •5H2O	none	Na2CO3	Na3PO4 •12H2O
		Concentration, g/l	none	1	none	5	10
	Surfactant Constituents:	Abbreviation	none	none	none	none	EO11NPE
		Concentration, g/l	none	none	none	none	2.0
Phosphate Conversion Treatment Composition Constituents and Process Conditions:	Treatment Temperature, °C		20	20	20	20	40
	Treatment Time, Seconds		30	30	30	30	120
	Grams per Liter of:	PO4 ³⁻	10	15	20	18	16
		Zn ²⁺	0.8	1.3	2.2	1.5	1.4
		Mg ²⁺	2.0	none	none	none	2.5
		Co ²⁺	none	1.0	none	none	none
		Mn ²⁺	0.5	none	1.0	none	none
		Ca ²⁺	none	none	none	1.5	none
		Sr ²⁺	none	none	none	none	0.9
		WO4 ⁻²	none	none	0.3	none	none
		NO3 ⁻	8.3	7.6	9.0	8.0	7.3
		F ⁻	0.1	none	0.1	none	0.1
		NO2 ⁻	0.01	none	0.01	none	0.01
		NH4OH	none	1.5	none	3.0	none
	Treatment Temperature, °C		40	45	50	39	43
	Treatment Time, Seconds		120	120	120	120	120

Table 15: APPEARANCE OF THE CONVERSION COATING AND RESULTS OF PAINTING PERFORMANCE TESTING FOR EXAMPLES 16 THROUGH 20

TEST OR OTHER RATING	SUBSTRATE TESTED	EXAMPLE NUMBER				
		16	17	18	19	20
Coating Appearance	CRS	+	+	+	+	+
	EG	+	+	+	+	+
	GA	+	+	+	+	+
Secondary (Water-Resistant) Adherence	CRS	++	++	++	++	++
	EG	++	++	+	++	++
	GA	++	++	+	++	++
Resistance to Hot Salt Water	CRS	++	++	++	++	+
	EG	++	++	++	++	++
	GA	++	++	++	++	++
Resistance to Salt Spray	CRS	+	++	++	+	+
	EG	++	+	++	+	++
	GA	++	+	++	+	++

Table 16: APPEARANCE OF THE CONVERSION COATING AND RESULTS OF PAINTING PERFORMANCE TESTING FOR COMPARISON EXAMPLES 21 THROUGH 30

[illegible]

Table 17: EXAMPLES 21 TO 25 with Type (4) Polymer Adhesion Promoting Agents

			Example Number:				
			21	22	23	24	25
Surface Conditioning Treatment Composition Constituents and Process Conditions:	PREPALENE®-ZN, g/l		none	none	none	none	none
	Phosphate Particles	Abbreviation	Zn2FeP2	Zn3P2	Zn3P2	Zn2CaP2	Zn2FeP2
		Particle size, μm	0.5	0.5	1.7	0.6	0.5
		Concentration, g/l	5	1	1	5	10
	Monomer with Formula (I)	R ¹	H	none	none	CH ₃	none
		R ²	C ₂ H ₄ OH	none	none	C ₃ H ₇ OH	none
		Wt% in Polymer	100	none	none	20	none
	Other Unsaturated Acid Monomer	Monomer Name	none	maleic acid	acrylic acid	maleic acid	methacrylic acid
		Wt% in Polymer	none	80	100	80	50
	Other Co-monomer	Monomer Name	none	vinyl acetate	none	none	styrene-sulfonic acid
		Wt% in Polymer	none	20	none	none	50
	Polymer Concentration, ppm		1	500	2,000	1,500	5
	Salt constituent(s)	Chemical Formula	MgSO ₄ • 7H ₂ O	Na ₂ O • SiO ₂ • 5H ₂ O	none	KOH	Na ₃ PO ₄ • 12H ₂ O
		Concentration, g/l	0.5	1	none	5	10
	Surfactant Constituents	Abbreviation	none	none	none	none	EO11NPE
		Concentration, g/l	none	none	none	none	2.0
Phosphate Conversion Treatment Composition Constituents and Process Conditions:	Treatment Temperature, °C		20	20	20	20	40
	Treatment Time, Seconds		30	30	30	30	120
	Grams per Liter of:	PO ₄ ³⁻	10	15	20	18	16
		Zn ²⁺	0.8	1.3	2.2	1.5	1.4
		Mg ²⁺	2.0	none	none	none	2.5
		Co ²⁺	none	1.0	none	none	none
		Mn ²⁺	0.5	none	1.0	none	none
		Ca ²⁺	none	none	none	1.5	none
		Sr ²⁺	none	none	none	none	0.9
		WO ₄ ²⁻	none	none	0.3	none	none
		NO ₃ ⁻	8.3	7.6	9.0	8.0	7.3
		F ⁻	0.1	none	0.1	none	0.1
		NO ₂ ⁻	0.01	none	0.01	none	0.01
		NH ₄ OH	none	1.5	none	3.0	none
	Treatment Temperature, °C		40	45	50	39	43
	Treatment Time, Seconds		120	120	120	120	120

Table 18: COMPARATIVE EXAMPLES 31 TO 35

			Comparative Example Number:				
			31	32	33	34	35
Surface Conditioning Treatment Composition Constituents and Process Conditions:	PREPALENE®-ZN, g/l		none	none	none	none	none
	Phosphate Particles	Abbreviation	Zn2FeP2	Zn3P2	Zn3P2	Zn2CaP2	Zn2FeP2
		Particle size, μm	0.5	0.5	1.7	0.6	0.5
		Concentration, g/l	5	1	1	5	10
	Monomer with Formula (I)	R1	H	none	none	CH3	none
		R2	C7H4OH	none	none	C3H7OH	none
		Wt% in Polymer	100	none	none	20	none
	Other Unsaturated Acid Monomer	Monomer Name	none	maleic acid	acrylic acid	maleic acid	methacrylic acid
		Wt% in Polymer	none	80	100	80	50
	Other Co-monomer	Monomer Name	none	vinyl acetate	none	none	styrenesulfonic acid
		Wt% in Polymer	none	20	none	none	50
	Polymer Concentration, ppm		1	500	2,000	1,500	5
	Salt constituent(s)	Chemical Formula	MgSO4 • 7H2O	Na2O • SiO2 • 5H2O	none	Na2CO3	Na3PO4 • 12H2O
		Concentration, g/l	0.5	1	none	5	10
	Surfactant Constituents	Abbreviation	none	none	none	none	EOIINPE
		Concentration, g/l	none	none	none	none	2.0
Phosphate Conversion Treatment Composition Constituents and Process Conditions:	Treatment Temperature, °C		20	20	20	20	40
	Treatment Time, Seconds		30	30	30	30	120
	Grams per Liter of:	PO4 ³⁻	11	15	1.0	18	16
		Zn ²⁺	0.1	7.0	2.0	1.5	1.4
		Mg ²⁺	2.0	none	none	none	2.5
		Co ²⁺	none	none	none	none	none
		Mn ²⁺	0.6	none	1.0	1.0	none
		Ca ²⁺	none	none	none	none	none
		Sr ²⁺	none	none	none	3.0	0.9
		WO4 ²⁻	none	none	0.3	none	none
		NO3 ⁻	8.9	7.6	9.0	8.0	7.3
		F ⁻	0.1	none	0.1	none	0.1
		NO2 ⁻	0.01	none	0.01	none	none
		NH4OH	none	1.5	none	3.0	3.5
	Treatment Temperature, °C		40	45	50	39	20
	Treatment Time, Seconds		120	120	120	120	120

Table 19: COMPARATIVE EXAMPLES 36 TO 40

			Comparative Example Number:				
			36	37	38	39	40
Surface Conditioning Treatment Composition Constituents and Process Conditions:	PREPALENE®-ZN, g/l		1	none	none	none	none
	Phosphate Particles	Abbreviation	none	Zn2CaP2	Zn3P2	Zn2CaP2	Zn2FeP2
		Particle size, µm	none	0.8	6.8	0.6	0.5
		Concentration, g/l	none	10	1	5	0.0001
	Monomer with Formula (I)	R1	H	none	none	CH3	none
		R2	C2H4OH	none	none	C3H7OH	none
		Wt% in Polymer	100	none	none	20	none
	Other Un-saturated Acid Monomer	Monomer Name	none	none	acrylic acid	maleic acid	methacrylic acid
		Wt% in Polymer	none	none	100	80	50
	Other Co-monomer	Monomer Name	none	none	none	none	styrenesulfonic acid
		Wt% in Polymer	none	none	none	none	50
	Polymer Concentration, ppm		1	none	2,000	3,000	5
	Salt constituent(s)	Chemical Formula	MgSO4 • 7H2O	Na2O • SiO2 • 5H2O	none	Na2CO3	Na3PO4 • 12H2O
		Concentration, g/l	0.5	1	none	5	10
Phosphate Conversion Treatment Composition Constituents and Process Conditions:	Surfactant Constituents	Abbreviation	none	none	none	none	EO11NPE
		Concentration, g/l	none	none	none	none	2.0
	Treatment Temperature, °C		20	20	20	20	40
	Treatment Time, Seconds		30	30	30	30	120
	Grams per Liter of:	PO4 ³⁻	10	15	20	18	16
		Zn ²⁺	0.8	1.3	2.2	1.5	1.4
		Mg ²⁺	2.0	none	none	none	2.5
		Co ²⁺	none	1.0	none	none	none
		Mn ²⁺	0.5	none	1.0	none	none
		Ca ²⁺	none	none	none	1.5	none
		Sr ²⁺	none	none	none	none	0.9
		WO4 ²⁻	none	none	0.3	none	none
		NO3 ⁻	8.3	7.6	9.0	8.0	7.3
		F ⁻	0.1	none	0.1	none	0.1
		NO2 ⁻	0.01	none	0.01	none	0.01
		NH4OH	none	1.5	none	3.0	none
	Treatment Temperature, °C		40	45	50	39	43
	Treatment Time, Seconds		120	120	120	120	120

Table 20: APPEARANCE OF THE CONVERSION COATING AND RESULTS OF PAINTING PERFORMANCE TESTING FOR EXAMPLES 21 THROUGH 25

TEST OR OTHER RATING	SUBSTRATE TESTED	EXAMPLE NUMBER				
		21	22	23	24	25
Coating Appearance	CRS	+	+	+	+	+
	EG	+	+	+	+	+
	GA	+	+	+	+	+
Secondary (Water-Resistant) Adherence	CRS	++	++	++	++	++
	EG	++	++	+	++	++
	GA	++	++	+	++	++
Resistance to Hot Salt Water	CRS	++	++	++	++	+
	EG	++	++	++	++	++
	GA	++	++	++	++	++
Resistance to Salt Spray	CRS	+	++	++	+	+
	EG	++	+	++	+	++
	GA	++	+	++	+	++

Table 21: APPEARANCE OF THE CONVERSION COATING AND RESULTS OF PAINTING PERFORMANCE TESTING FOR COMPARISON EXAMPLES 31 THROUGH 40

TEST OR OTHER RATING	SUB-STRATE TESTED	COMPARISON EXAMPLE NUMBER									
		31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
Coating Appearance	CRS	x	+	x	x	x	+	x	x	x	x
	EG	x	+	x	x	x	+	x	x	x	+
	GA	x	+	x	x	x	+	x	x	x	+
Secondary (Water-Resistant) Adherence	CRS	++	+	++	++	++	+	++	++	++	+
	EG	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
	GA	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Resistance to Hot Salt Water	CRS	x	++	x	x	x	++	x	x	x	x
	EG	x	+	x	x	x	+	x	x	x	+
	GA	x	+	x	x	x	+	x	x	x	+
Resistance to Salt Spray	CRS	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
	EG	x	+	x	x	x	+	x	x	x	x
	GA	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

CLAIMS

1. A process for forming a phosphate conversion coating on a metal substrate surface, said process comprising the following operations:

(I) contacting the metal substrate surface with an aqueous liquid surface conditioning composition that comprises, preferably consists essentially of, or more preferably consists of, water and the following components:

(I.A) dispersed solid phosphate particles that:

- (i) have a diameter no greater than 5 μm ; and
- (ii) comprise at least one substance selected from the group consisting of phosphates that contain at least one type of divalent or trivalent metal cations;

and

(I.B) as adhesion-promoting component, at least one selection from the group consisting of the following subgroups:

- (1) monosaccharides, polysaccharides, and derivatives thereof;
- (2) phosphorus containing solutes selected from the group consisting of orthophosphoric acid, condensed phosphoric acids, and organophosphonic acid compounds;
- (3) water-soluble polymers that are homopolymers or copolymers of vinyl acetate and derivatives of these homopolymers and copolymers; and
- (4) copolymers and polymers afforded by the polymerization of:

(a) at least one selection from:

- monomers, exclusive of vinyl acetate, that conform to general chemical formula (I):



where $\text{R}^1 = \text{H}$ or CH_3 and $\text{R}^2 = \text{H}$, C_1 to C_5 alkyl, or C_1 to C_5 hydroxyalkyl; and

- other α,β -unsaturated carboxylic acid monomers; and, optionally,

(b) not more than 50 % by weight of monomers that are not vinyl acetate and are not within the description of part (a) immediately above but are copolymerizable with said monomers that are

within the description of said part (a);

and

(II) contacting the metal substrate surface as conditioned in operation (I) as described above with a nickel-free phosphate conversion treatment bath that comprises water and the following amounts of the following components:

- (II.A) from 0.5 to 5 g/l of zinc cations;
- (II.B) from 5 to 30 g/l of phosphate ions; and
- (II.C) a component of conversion accelerator.

2. A process according to claim 1, wherein the phosphate conversion treatment bath also contains from 0.1 to 3.0 g/l of at least one type of ions selected from the group consisting of magnesium ions, cobalt ions, manganese ions, calcium ions, tungstate ions, and strontium ions.

3. A process according to claim 2, wherein the concentration of component (I.A) is from 0.001 to 30 g/l and the concentration of component (I.B) is from 1 to 2,000 ppm.

4. A process according to claim 1, wherein the concentration of component (I.A) is from 0.001 to 30 g/l and the concentration of component (I.B) is from 1 to 2,000 ppm.

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DECLARATION FOR UTILITY OR DESIGN PATENT APPLICATION

☒ Declaration Submitted with Initial Filing OR ☐ Declaration Submitted after Initial Filing

Attorney Docket Number	M 6741 HST/NI
First Named Inventor	HirokatsuBANNAL
COMPLETE IF KNOWN	
Application Number	
Filing Date	
Group Art Unit	
Examiner Name	

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that.

My residence, post office address, and citizenship are as stated below next to my name

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

PROCESS FOR FORMING A PHOSPHATE CONVERSION COATING ON METAL

(Title of the Invention)

the specification of which

☐ is attached hereto

OR

☒ was filed on (MM/DD/YYYY) 08/16/ 2000 as United States Application Number or PCT International

Application No. PCT/US00/22335 and was amended on (if

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment specifically referred to above

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37 Code of Federal Regulations, § 1 56

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code §119(a)-(d) or §365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or §365(a) of any PCT International application which designated at least one country other than the United States of America, listed below and have also identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate, or of any PCT International application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed

Prior Foreign Application Number(s)	Country	Foreign Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	Priority Not Claimed	Certified Copy Attached? YES NO
H11-230060	Japan	08/16/1999	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>

☐ Additional foreign application numbers are listed on a supplemental priority sheet attached hereto

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code §119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below

Application Number(s)	Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	Additional provisional application numbers are listed on a supplemental priority sheet attached hereto
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Page 2

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Additional inventors are being named on supplemental sheet(s) attached hereto

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10049767.010912

DECLARATION

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Supplemental Sheet

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